

How to Live Clean

Mark 7:14-23 NIV

- I. Understanding the problem.
 - a. If we minimize the problem, we will come up with the wrong solution.
 - i. The Pharisees – separate ones. The problem is out there so we can be clean if we stay away from unclean food and people.
 - ii. The religions of man including secular humanism – we are the problem but God helps those who help themselves. If we identify the problem we can change our behaviors, form habits, and solve the problem. Behavior modification.
 - b. The problem is not our behavior, it's in our hearts. Jeremiah 17:9 NIV “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” *They bring out the worst in me – they don't make me bad, they bring out the bad that's already there.
 - c. The nature of a pig. You can wash it, put a bow on it, and put fences around the mud, but it will still long to be in the mud.
- II. Jesus has authority to make the unclean, clean.
 - a. The leper. Luke 5:12-13 ESV “While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy.^[a] And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” ¹³And Jesus^[b] stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him.” *The woman with the issue of blood.
 - b. “Jesus declared all foods clean.” Mark is Peter's gospel and this line is informed by an experience Peter had that Luke tells us about in Acts. Acts 10:13-16 NIV “Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.
 - c. It was about food because of a change of covenant, but it wasn't mainly about food, it was about people. Acts 10:28 NIV “He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.”
 - d. The New Covenant is about God's ability to make the vilest clean. 2Corinthians 5:18-21 NIV “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God

were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." He imputes our sin to Christ, and Christ's righteousness to us. This was always His plan. We go out into this world bring His ability to clean to others.

- e. Kevin's Poem – he goes here and got saved in prison – he's in training to be a pastor. He wrote this the same morning I was working on the sermon. "Black Sheep"
 - i. 2Corinthians 5:17 NIV "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!"
 - ii. Ezekiel 36:26 NIV "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

III. Living clean.

- a. Our two enemies to living clear are the sin nature and the kingdom of darkness. God counters them by two antidotes:
 - i. A new nature – His very DNA 2Peter 1:4 NIV "Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." *The cat *The blood of Jesus washes us again as often as we need it. (1John 1:9)
 - ii. The Holy Spirit – our new nature is to be filled again and again by the Spirit. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1John 4:4) This is how we overcome!!!
- b. Tuesday morning.
 - i. Joe – the garage door opening and him and his brother quickly stopped messing around and cleaned the place up.
 - ii. Me – Jesus washing Peter's feet – you are already clean, you just need your feet cleaned because the world gets on you.
 - iii. Macky – this is the Lord – we talked about the garage door opening last night and about Jesus washing the feet this morning.
 - iv. Alice – Tom was waiting for me as the garage door went up.
 - v. Megan – Emma is filled with joy when she hears the garage door open.
- c. Listen – the garage door is opening right now – is Jesus coming back or is He coming in a great end times revival?
 - i. Joe and his brother – 1John 2:28 NIV "And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming."
 - ii. Emma – 1John 3:2-3b NIV "we know that when Christ appears,^[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."